

Filed for intro on 03/27/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 705  
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center staff and their private partner, Energy Systems Group, upon receiving the Vice President Al Gore's *Hammer Award*.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to commend and honor those estimable organizations whose dedication to standards of excellence have enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of government; and

WHEREAS, the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center staff and their private partner, Energy Systems Group, are two such organizations whose combined efforts have been honored with the receipt of Vice President Al Gore's *Hammer Award*; and

WHEREAS, the honor was bestowed on these praiseworthy groups on March 10, 2000, The Honorable Hershel W. Gober, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, was the keynote speaker and presenter of the award; and

WHEREAS, the *Hammer Award* was established by Vice President Al Gore, to specially recognize teams who have made significant contributions in support of the President's National

SJR0705

01190685

Performance Review (NPR), principles which seek to put customers first, cut red tape, empower employees and get back to basics; and

WHEREAS, the new standards of excellence achieved by the partnership between the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and Energy Systems Group is helping to reinvent government through their *Enhanced-Use* Energy Team; and

WHEREAS, the team has been chosen for recognition by virtue of its successful implementation of Vice President Gore's powerful reinvention formula, making government work better and cost less; this comes as a result of the team's efforts to put such principles into practice in the first privately financed and operated energy plant on VA property; and

WHEREAS, the acclaimed project involves the outleasing of VA property and facilities to a private energy developer/operator, Energy Systems Group, in exchange for reduced-cost energy and energy-related services as well as improvements to the VA Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the energy-related improvements have already begun on the VA campus; ultimately, the project will enable the VA to save an astounding five to fifteen million dollars in recurring costs and over thirty-five million dollars in capital cost; and

WHEREAS, Energy Systems Group President, Jim Adams, exclaimed, "This partnership is a tremendous, high profile opportunity for EDG to demonstrate our commitment to deliver innovative, self-funding costs while allowing the VA to focus on its core mission of providing quality health care services"; and

WHEREAS, NPR Director, Moreley Winograd praised the team: he stated, "We welcome the *Enhanced-Use* Energy Team to the elite corps of *Hammer Award* winners"; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of this remarkable team are most assuredly deserving of the recognition of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs

Medical Center staff and their private partner, Energy Systems Group, upon receiving the *Hammer Award*, in recognition of their unswerving commitment to excellence, and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.